

REMARKS

Claims 1-44 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 39 has been amended and claims 43 and 44 have been added.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended by Examiners Cuevas and Tamai to Applicants' representative during the September 2, 2003 personal interview. The points discussed are incorporated into the Remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Nashiki, U. S. Patent No. 6,144,132 and claims 2-8, 13-25, 30 and 32-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nashiki and further in view of Yates, U. S. Patent No. 4,618,792 in view of JP 411004553 (JP'553). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

As agreed, none of the applied references disclose or suggest all of the features recited in Applicants' claims 1-8, 13-25, 30, 32-38 and 40-42.

Also, none of the applied references disclose or suggest a rotary electric machine with a stator comprising an annular portion and teeth having an end connected to the annular portion, each tooth comprising two non-parallel opposite planar faces as recited in claim 39.

During the personal interview, the Examiners questioned whether the annular region adjacent to the sides of JP'553's magnetic pole 41 formed a part of a tooth. The annular region adjacent to the sides of JP'553's magnetic pole 41 is not part of a tooth but is, in fact, part of JP'553's annular portion. The bottom of each slot formed between two adjacent teeth and comprising the adjacent regions belongs to the annular portion of the stator and not the teeth.

As such, neither Nashiki nor JP'553 discloses Applicants' tooth because both of the applied references only disclose teeth with parallel opposite planar faces. Also, Yates fails to disclose planar faces for their teeth. Accordingly, none of the applied references disclose or

suggest all of the features recited in Applicants' claim 39. It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-44 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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